

STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

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The Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") identified and discussed significant effects, which will occur as a result of the Project. With the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in the FEIR, these effects can be mitigated to levels of insignificance except for the unavoidable direct significant impacts to air quality and visual quality/aesthetics and the cumulative impacts to traffic/circulation, noise, and visual quality/aesthetics that result when this Project is combined with other projects in the area.

The Statement:

The Planning Commission of the County of San Diego ("Planning Commission"), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, in approving the various actions that are the subject of the FEIR, having considered and independently judged the information contained in the FEIR and having reviewed and considered the public testimony and record, adopts the following Statement of Overriding Considerations in support of the Findings and the action of the Planning Commission in approving the Project. The County recognizes that significant and unavoidable impacts will result from implementation of the Project. Having (i) adopted all feasible mitigation measures, (ii) rejected the alternatives to the Project, (iii) recognized all significant, unavoidable impacts, and (iv) balanced the benefits of the Project against the Project's significant and unavoidable effects, the Planning Commission hereby finds that the economic, legal, social, technological, aesthetic, environmental and other benefits of the Project outweigh and override the significant unavoidable effects, and justify adoption of the Project and certification of the completed FEIR, for the reasons stated below.

Finding:

Having balanced the benefits of the Project against the Project's potential unavoidable adverse impacts, the Planning Commission hereby determines that the benefits of the Project outweigh the potential unavoidable adverse impacts, and that the potential unavoidable adverse impacts are nonetheless "acceptable," based on the following overriding considerations:

1. The Project will increase the life of the landfill approximately 16 years beyond the current remaining life of 10 years. This increase in life will provide needed landfill capacity to help meet future solid waste disposal needs within the County of San Diego, particularly in the South County area. In addition to the Otay Landfill, there are four other permitted landfills currently serving the County of San Diego. They include the Miramar and Sycamore Landfills located in the City of San Diego, the Ramona Landfill located in the Community of Ramona, and the Borrego Springs Landfill located near the community of Borrego Springs. The Ramona and Borrego